

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 EB-08
COME-00 IO-13 /098 W
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R 170830Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7307
INFO: AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO 1312
AMEMBASSY LONDON 1052
AMEMBASSY PARIS 906
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA 122
CINCPAC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0184

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR PINT PEPR PGOV ECON EINV FR EEC US MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - FEBRUARY 17 - SUMMARY

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS 0144 (DTG 100904Z FEB 78)
(B) PORT LOUIS A-14, FEBRUARY 17, 1978

1. THE MAURITIAN PRESS REACTED SHARPLY OVER THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S RECENT MOVE TO CLAIM A 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC RESOURCE ZONE AROUND THE DISPUTED TROMELIN ISLAND. THE NEWSPAPERS QUOTED UNNAMED OFFICIAL SOURCES AS INDICATING THAT THE GOM WILL PROTEST THE FRENCH ACTION AND MAY TAKE THE CASE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE.

2. THE THREE "YOUNG TURK" LABOR PARTY DEPUTIES CONTINUED TO
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MAKE PUBLIC DEMANDS THAT THE PARTY LEADERSHIP TAKE ACTION TO REORGANIZE AND STREAMLINE THE GOVERNMENT, ROOTING OUT FAVORITISM, CORRUPTION AND WASTE. THEY PUBLISHED A LIST OF 18 "DEMANDS" INCLUDING SUCH THINGS AS REDUCTION OF THE CABINET TO 11 PORTFOLIOS, REMOVAL OF THREE "BEST LOSER" MINISTERS (WALTER, JAGATSINGH AND MOHAMED), THE FORCED RETIREMENT OF A NUMBER OF RAMGOOLAM'S CRONIES WHO HEAD PARASTATAL BODIES,

AND THE SENDING HOME OF A HOST OF FOREIGN EXPERTS WHO CAN BE REPLACED BY MAURITIANS. THE YOUNG TURKS' PERSISTENCE IS BEGINNING TO CAUSE SOME UPHEAVAL INSIDE THE PARTY, AND ACTING PRIME MINISTER RINGADOO HAS MADE COUNTER STATEMENTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE LID ON. ADDING HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE FRAY, THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT'S LEADER, PAUL BERENGER, COMPARED THE COUNTRY'S CURRENT "POLITICO-ECONOMIC CRISIS" TO THAT OF THE SITUATION IN LATE 1973 WHEN THE LAST LABOR-MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PMSD) COALITION COLLAPSED.

3. IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE, AGRICULTURAL MINISTER BOOLELL, ON HIS RETURN FROM THE EEC SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS IN EUROPE, HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE THAT PRICES WOULD BE ANY HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR. ON ANOTHER FRONT, THE LAST REMAINING AMERICAN FACTORY OPERATING IN THE FREE ZONE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL CLOSE DOWN SOON UNLESS THE GOM CAN COME THROUGH WITH A TWO MILLION RUPEE LOAN. THE GOM, WHILE SYMPATHETIC, SAYS IT CANNOT LEND ANY ASSISTANCE.

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Message Attributes

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